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**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOSÉ FÉLIX**

**May 12, 2019**

I was away for the last two weeks finishing a pilgrimage I started three years ago with a small group. A walking pilgrimage in the Northern part of Spain arriving in the city of Santiago of Compostela. In total, during the three years, we walked 35 days and 560 miles.

It could sound scary or crazy to walk that many miles and in fact... it is. Pilgrimages have always been part of our religion. Abraham was asked to leave his land and the land of his family and to walk to a new land. Joseph brought the people of Israel to Egypt and later, Moses took them to the Promised Land going through a long pilgrimage.

Christians had always made pilgrimages to holy places, to the Holy Land, to Rome and also to Santiago de Compostela, where according to the tradition St. James, one of the apostles is buried. To visit his tomb after all our effort was truly a blessing.

Pilgrimages are always a spiritual movement, going to a place and leaving other things behind. When we walked, we experienced daily how things, towns, people... are left behind. In some way, our life is just a pilgrimage, a spiritual movement towards heaven, towards a personal encounter with God.

During my pilgrimage I prayed for all the families in our parish, I prayed for you!

**God bless,**  
*Father José Félix*